



**Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists**

**Media Release**

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## **MEASURING BLOOD LEVELS OF A COMMON DIABETIC DRUG CAN REDUCE SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS**

New research measuring blood levels of Metformin, a commonly used diabetes medicine, will help doctors to prescribe the right dose for each patient.

Janna Duong from the University of New South Wales will present her findings at the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists (ASCEPT) Annual Scientific Meeting in Perth on the 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Type 2 diabetes continues to be the fastest growing chronic disease in Australia. According to Diabetes Australia 1.7 million Australians have diabetes and up to half don't know it. Another estimated 1.5 million Australians have pre-diabetes and are at risk of developing the disease.

Metformin is the drug of choice for type 2 diabetes. It is very effective in reducing high blood glucose levels and also has benefits in reducing the risk of heart disease and cancer.

The reason this research is so important is that this class of drug can also have serious side effects, including death. Being able to tailor doses to each individual patient and so maximize benefits and reduce the chance of serious side effects will benefit many Australians.

National and international leaders in pharmacology and toxicology are meeting in Perth between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011 to discuss the latest research on drugs and chemical safety. The program of plenary lectures, symposia and workshops, oral presentations and posters will be academically and scientifically stimulating and lead to new collaborations and research opportunities. Annual awards and prizes will also be presented at this meeting.

Ends.

**For further information or to arrange an interview contact Fran Hagon  
M: 0405 066 022 E: [fhagon@ascept.org](mailto:fhagon@ascept.org) T: @asceptanz**